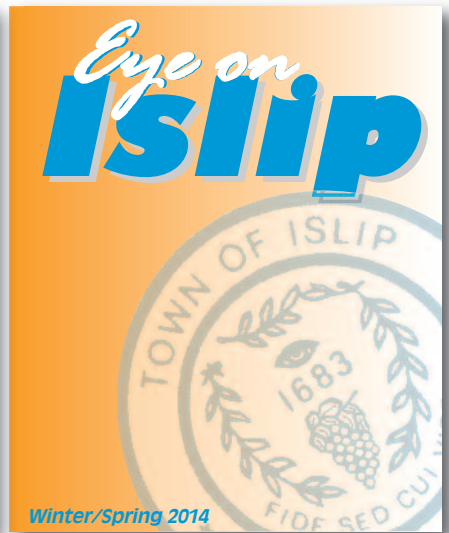




Roberto Clemente Pool at Timberline Park in Brentwood will celebrate a grand reopening in time for the Summer 2014 season. Major renovations are set to begin there this winter that will transform the area from a dated and unsafe pool, to a state-of-the-art aquatic complex...more on pg. 4



IN THIS ISSUE

2014 Budget Provides 0% Tax Increase Restores, Strengthens Key Services and Programs

Islip Town taxpayers received a holiday gift when opening their 2014 tax bill in December – a ZERO percent increase in the town portion of their taxes which was the result of months of scrutinizing the Town's budgeting process. Town Board members unanimously approved the 2014 Budget at a November 7 public hearing.

Besides holding the line on taxes, the current budget also restored and strengthened key programs and services for residents, an admirable accomplishment by board members who were faced with an unprecedented \$26 million deficit for the year 2013, while also dealing with the aftermath and destruction from Superstorm Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo.

"This Board had a common goal to provide tax stabilization to our constituents and answered their calls for improved services," noted Councilman Anthony Senft, Jr. "With that in mind, the Board worked directly with town departments over the last several months to scrutinize the town's current financial state, continuing the zero based budgeting approach."

The 2014 budget totals \$124,617,404. The average homeowner with a house of an assessed value of \$400,000, will pay \$441.00, for their Town taxes, the same exact rate as in 2013 - which continues to remain lower than the Towns of Brookhaven, Babylon, Huntington, and

Smithtown.

The 2014 Budget also allows for the restoration of the Bay Constable and Marina Guard programs that were excised in 2013, and looks to strengthen code enforcement efforts for enhanced crackdowns on illegal multi-family landlords, parking scofflaws, residential quality of life violators, and general violations of Town code. Other key components of the budget include the ongoing push to close-out expired building permits, consolidate municipal space and surplus lands, and develop innovative parking programs in 2014.

"We listened to the public – their questions and concerns – and by working together as a team, were able to give them a no tax increase budget that also restores the programs and services that they have long requested from their Town," Councilman

John C. Cochrane, Jr. said. "We cut where it was necessary and possible, and grew only in very strategic ways as a direct response to the public's ongoing requests to their Town government."

Town Board members have pledged to continue their commitment to identify new ways to save taxpayer dollars, such as entering into public/private partnerships, which proved very successful in 2013.

The 2014 adopted budget is available for viewing on the Town of Islip website, www.TownofIslip-ny.gov. ■

0%



Long Island MacArthur Airport saw the arrival of two new airlines in 2013, including the Alaskan-based PenAir that offers nonstop service from Islip to Boston. See pg. 4 for more about continued growth at LIMA.

The Islip Animal Shelter and Adopt-a-Pet Center has taken further strides to increase dog adoptions by implementing a new training program that improves a dog's public behavior through the Canine Good Citizen Test.

Since its recent kickoff, the shelter has successfully found homes for 11 out of the 15 dogs selected for training, as prospective owners see huge differences and advantages in dogs that have gone through the program.



PLUS... Islip Rebuilds After Sandy, and Aggressive Code Enforcement Efforts Get Results



Superstorm Sandy and the Long Road to Recovery



Islip Beach two days after Sandy struck: pavillion, walkways, boardwalks, concession and bathrooms damaged and destroyed.



Islip Beach concession stand and kitchen equipment a total loss. Equipment strewn across the beach and parking lots.



Major reconstruction under way in early summer included demolition of old buildings and the arrival of a pre-fab building.

October 29, 2012, and the days, weeks and months following, is a time that will never be forgotten on Long Island, where virtually every community was impacted in some way from Superstorm Sandy -- Islip was no exception.

Sandy caused a massive amount of destruction throughout Islip Town, especially at a number of municipal parks, beaches, and marinas, where repairs totaled a staggering \$28 million. In addition, hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed, leaving many residents displaced. The road to

recovery has been long and arduous. But hope has risen from the rubble and debris, thanks in large part to the committed efforts of Islip Town employees who worked tirelessly before, during and after this epic storm to identify troubled areas, make necessary and immediate repairs as needed, and to assist people in getting back in their homes as quickly as possible.

Most notable in Islip's road to recovery is the fact that town beaches and marinas were opened and functional for the

Islip Town Cracks Down on Quality of Life Violations

The year 2013 proved successful for code enforcement actions throughout Islip Town with nearly 3,200 appearance tickets issued for residential quality of life violations, such as illegal multi-family housing and property maintenance failure.

Town Public Safety officials strengthened relationships in 2013 with several agencies and executed joint enforcement actions at many locations, including a property without indoor plumbing on Ackerman Street in

Central Islip, which housed a drug and prostitution operation. Similar actions were taken in Brentwood at properties where severely compromised electric wiring, overflowing litter and debris, unregistered vehicles, and excessive vegetation, contributed to dangerous safety violations.

Enforcement efforts to board and clean up residential homes that have been neglected by their owners, have quadrupled over prior years, and several demoli-

tions of ongoing community eyesores have been successfully executed.

A comprehensive and stronger approach by Code Enforcement officials, Fire Marshals and Town attorneys, combined with more stringent laws and policies enacted by the Town Board, is allowing the Town to respond to constituent complaints in an expeditious manner.

To report a code violation please call Central Complaints at 224-5460. ■



808 Johnson Avenue in Ronkonkoma suffered extreme fire damage and sat vacant for several years before Islip officials demolished the dilapidated house, which was directly across from an elementary school.

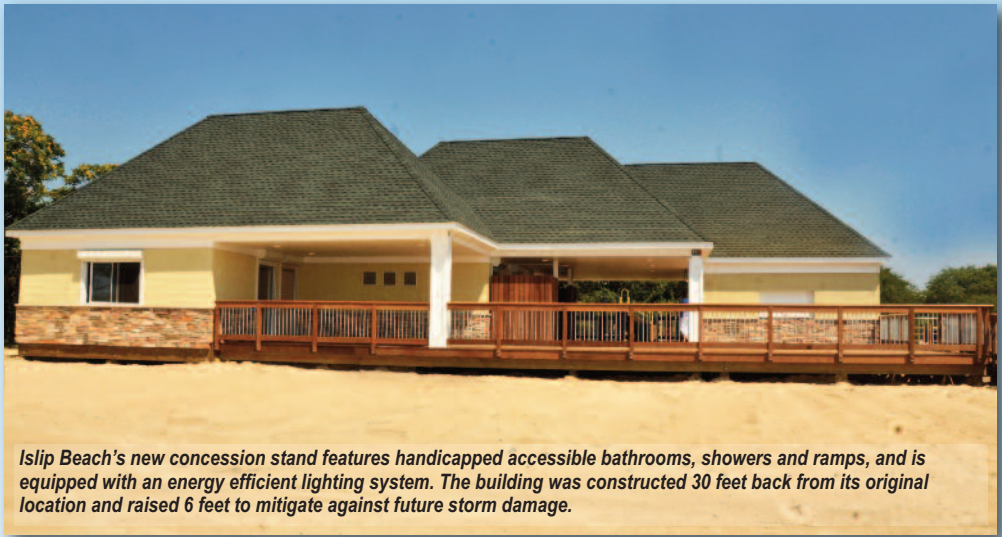


These properties in Brentwood and Central Islip were shut down for extreme dangerous conditions and lack of property maintenance.

Recovery



erway during the spring and
molition, new boardwalks,
o concession/bathroom



Islip Beach's new concession stand features handicapped accessible bathrooms, showers and ramps, and is equipped with an energy efficient lighting system. The building was constructed 30 feet back from its original location and raised 6 feet to mitigate against future storm damage.

summer 2013 season, including Islip Beach, the hardest hit recreational facility that suffered nearly \$2 million in damages. Recovery efforts there included the complete reconstruction and relocation of a new concession facility, new boardwalks, ramps and railings.

Also of note, is the quick turnaround of building permits issued in 2013, relating to Superstorm Sandy, which enabled residents to repair their homes in a timely manner.

The Town Board also unanimously made legislative changes

throughout 2013 that allowed for more leniency when dealing with storm-related permits.

Superstorm Sandy will no doubt go down in history as one of the worst storms of the century. However, positive lessons learned include a hard look at the town's emergency policies and procedures, improvements to communications systems, and hardening of the town's infrastructure to prepare for future weather emergencies. ■

Islip's South Shore Nature Center Reopens

The South Shore Nature Center, located on Bayview Avenue in East Islip, celebrated the beginning of a new chapter with its grand reopening in September.

The doors to the Nature Center – now known as the Orr Wildlife Learning Center or OWLC, in honor of its original owner, the Orr Family, who donated the house and more than 30 acres of property to the Town – were officially reopened to the public for the first time since late 2012, when it was closed due to budgetary constraints.

But thanks to a public/private partnership between the Town and Seatuck Association, an Islip-based nonprofit environmental organization, the invaluable natural resource and a variety of educational programs were saved.

For more information about the South Shore Nature Center, visit www.Seatuck.org. ■



Islip Vet War Journal Project Underway

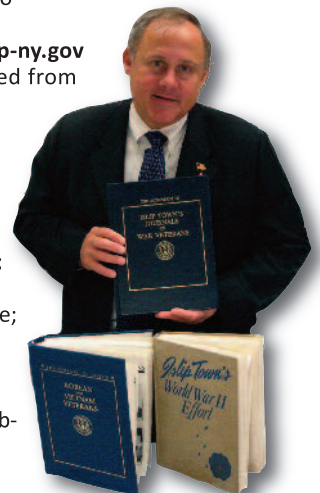
Islip Town Councilman John C. Cochrane, Jr. is continuing his efforts to collect the names and biographical information of Islip veterans who served in the first Gulf War to the present War on Terror, to be included in the latest edition of Islip's Journal of War Veterans. The latest volume will join past editions that featured Islip residents who served in World War Two, Korea, Vietnam, and other modern conflicts.

Residents are encouraged to send their submissions to Councilman Cochrane's office at 655 Main Street, Islip NY 11751. Submissions may also be sent electronically to islipwarjournal@townofislip-ny.gov

A form may be downloaded from the Town website at www.TownofIslip-NY.gov

Information should include: name; date of birth; hamlet where the veteran grew up; high school/college attended; year of entry to the military; where served; medals/honors received during their service; date of discharge; current residence; current occupation; photograph; and contact information for the person submitting the information.

For more information, call (631) 224-5559. ■





Allegiant VP Jude Bricker announces new flights with airport liaison Councilman John C. Cochrane, Jr., Councilmembers Steve Flotteron, Trish Bergin Weichbrodt and Anthony Senft, Jr., and Receiver of Taxes Alexis Weik.

Responding to a decrease in flights and services at Islip's Long Island MacArthur Airport in recent months, Islip Town Board members and airport officials have been aggressively seeking airlines and other related services to bolster activity at the municipal-owned and operated transportation hub. And their efforts have paid off.

Since July, not one, but two new airlines have started service at the airport. PenAir, an Alaskan-based airline company, began nonstop service to Boston, twice daily, in July, while Allegiant Travel Company of Las Vegas, started a weekly nonstop flight to Punta Gorda, in December. Both provide Islip residents with new opportunities when traveling for business or leisure.

Several initiatives have been launched to attract additional

Things Are Looking Up at Long Island MacArthur Airport

airlines, including a survey conducted by Stony Brook University that identified places such as Boston and the West Coast of Florida, as primary destinations for both the business and leisure traveler. In addition, the Islip Town Board authorized a new Air Service Development Incentive Program in July, aimed at attracting new carriers and increasing service by incumbent carriers by offering several options to airlines, such as waiving landing fees and some rental charges, as well as a town commitment to support the carrier's marketing and advertising initiatives. US Airways is one airline that took advantage of the program when it successfully introduced new service to Reagan National Airport from MacArthur in March 2012.

"The Town Board appreciates and understands the economic significance of the airport to not only Islip Town, but the entire Long Island region. We are committed to doing whatever is necessary to reverse the current downward trend at LIMA," said airport liaison, Councilman John C. Cochrane, Jr.

Besides the arrival of new airlines, airport officials have transformed the main airport atrium into a community venue over the last several months, where travelers and the general public can enjoy concerts, performances, local artwork, historic displays and much more. In addition, Long Island's first all-talk radio station, LI News Radio, is now broadcasting live from the airport. A new retail shop, East End Getaway, featuring a life-size Great White Shark crashing through a wall, has also opened, as will SOMA, a bar and eatery offering Long Island microbrews and American pub fair in an outdoor café-style venue. ■

Stay Informed



Pay your Taxes

Don't wait in line when you can pay online.
Echeck and all major credit cards accepted.



eAlert Sign-up

Receive important information directly
to your email or smartphone.

visit us at www.townofislip-ny.gov today

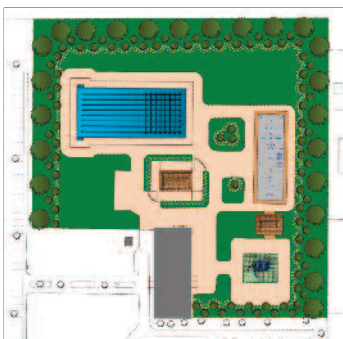
Roberto Clemente Pools to Get Facelift

Brentwood's Roberto Clemente Park will soon be home to an aquatic recreational system featuring a brand new, state-of-the-art spray park and playground, an upgraded filtration system, and a completely resurfaced Olympic-sized pool, all of which replaces the existing outdated pool and companion structures that have been severely neglected over the last few decades. The \$1.5 million rehabilitation project is underway and will be completed in time for the summer 2014 season.

Town Board members made the official announcement this past August which was met with praise by Brentwood community and civic leaders. The pool did not open last summer because of the level of work that needed to be done at the facility. However, Town Board members pledged their commitment to find funding opportunities that would enable the pool to reopen with significant upgrades.

Funding for the project comes from a \$300,000 Community Development Agency grant, a \$500,000 grant from the New York State Dormitory Authority, and \$750,000 will come from the town's 2013 Capital Budget.

Improvements to the pool include the complete resurfacing of the main pool, relocation of the underground chlorine tanks, and a major upgrade of the pool filters in order to optimize the system. In addition, two kiddie pools currently on site will be converted to a spray park, similar to a popular facility at Bay Shore Marina. The dive pool will also be replaced with a playground that will support the spray park and serve as a nearby amenity for children within the secure area. Meanwhile, soccer fields also located on park grounds, have been completely revamped as a privately funded project that was spearheaded by a local church group. ■



Check out the brand new, interactive Historic Islip Trail feature at www.townofislip-ny.gov.

